Title: **NNL Open Innovation – Delivery Partner** **DRAFT**

1. **Introduction**

This specification is in its first draft and has been released with the request for information (RFI) to help interested suppliers to understand the requirements of the National Nuclear Laboratory and to self-evaluate whether this service requirement is something which they are able to provide. If you have any feedback regarding the specification, please send this to Emma.Kirkpatrick@UKNNL.com

* 1. **Specification Outline**

National Nuclear Laboratory is seeking a service delivery partner to support the running of the Open Innovation Programme, including project management.

1. **Scope**

NNL are currently seeking a delivery partner to help it deliver its Open Innovation programme. It aims to identify and support innovators with developing technologies that can help address:

• NNL’s challenges;

• Innovation needs in national programmes; and

• Supporting NNL’s 4 Focus Areas: Health & Nuclear Medicine, Environmental Restoration, Security & Non-Proliferation, and Clean Energy

The above challenge areas will be referred to as “NNL Challenges”.

The following outlines the key activities that will be undertaken by the successful partner.

1. **Key Activities**
2. **Stimulation of New Ideas**

In order to stimulate the flow of new ideas and technologies and maintain a healthy innovation pipeline, it is essential that the NNL Open Innovation programme reaches out to many sectors, in all geographical regions and communicates clearly the challenges and opportunities available. In particular this will include highlighting where the opportunities for SMEs, HEIs and innovator communities exist.

**Development of focussed challenge statements**

The ability to “denuclearise” NNL Challenges is essential, to enable engagement with potential applicants from outside of the sector. Working closely with NNL challenge owners, the delivery partner will be expected to develop Challenge Statements that will be used to communicate NNL Open Innovation challenges in an interesting and engaging way. The Challenge Statements should include both text and imagery and needs to include, but not be limited to:

• Introduction to the Challenge

• Current Practice (including “do nothing”)

• Challenge aims

• Constraints

• Functional requirements

• Opportunity for a collaborator

The supplier should anticipate 6 x Challenge Statements, split over 2 challenge campaigns (3 challenge statements per campaign).

**Organise and deliver NNL Open Innovation Challenge Led Events**

These events will be organised, managed and delivered by the commercialisation support supplier, and will require intimate engagement with NNL stakeholders in order to deliver a focussed event that results in successfully attracting new, multi sector contacts who submit applications in support of NNL’s Challenges. These events will be delivered virtually.

A wide, cross sector contact database of innovators both in the UK and internationally is a key requirement.

The supplier should anticipate a total of 6 webinars, one for each Challenge Statement.

**Promotion of the NNL Open Innovation Initiative**

Pro-actively engage with existing and new 'non-nuclear' industry contacts to act as a potential pipeline of NNL Open Innovation applications (e.g. Oil and Gas, Electricity, Automotive, Renewables, digital, manufacturing etc..)

Approach industry contacts and technology related organisations and institutes to highlight the Challenge Statements. This should include targeted social media campaigns, academic networks and innovator communities to disseminate the challenges as broadly as possible. The aim of this activity is to present the Challenge Statements to a wide variety of sectors to attract applications for funding.

1. **Management of NNL Open Innovation Challenge Applications**

**Evaluation of Early Stage NNL Open Innovation applications**

New ideas are submitted to the NNL Open Innovation Co-Creation Community. These applications are assessed by a review board, made up of internal NNL technical experts (challenge owners) and the NNL innovation team, for their potential to make a difference to the NNL Challenges. There will be a requirement for the supplier to sit on this review board. Meetings are held after each Challenge Campaign.

It is the aim of the NNL Open Innovation initiative to assess 30 ideas for each challenge campaign. The best of these will be awarded with £12k grant awards.

Application will be made directly via the Co-Creation Community website.

The supplier should anticipate the processing of up to a total of 60 applications, based on the assumption that each Challenge Campaign will generate 30 submissions.

**NNL Open Innovation £12k Awards - “Discover phase”**

Applications considered worthy of further development by the Review Board, will be awarded a £12k grant for a 12 week project (“12 in 12”). This funding will be used by the applicant to develop:

• An informed business case, in the form of a business canvas document (and supporting documentation), focusing on a specific NNL Challenges use case.

• A costed programme for next steps to develop the concept further.

• A risk register supplied by NNL.

The supplier will work with successful applicants to develop these documents over a 12-week period. The supplier will be expected to ensure the project runs to time and cost. This is known as the “Discover” phase of the process.

An Investment Panel, made up of NNL Challenge owners and relevant technical experts, supported by the successful supplier, will review the output from the “Discover” phase, and decide which, if any, of the projects are suitable for further work during the Develop phase.

It is expected that a total of 12 x £12k awards will be made to NNL Open Innovation applicants over the course of one financial year (assumed 6 grants per Challenge Campaign) all of whom will need to be supported by the successful supplier.